
EFFECTIVE

March 1, 2009

SUBJECTS**1) AFGHAN SPECIAL
IMMIGRANT VISA
HOLDERS**

1. Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders.

BEM 225A

The period of acceptable alien status for Afghan aliens granted a special immigrant visa (SIV) is extended to eight months following their date of entry or adjustment to this alien status. **Policy is retro-active to March 1, 2009**, based on federal legislation. BEM 225A is changed to allow the same period of acceptable alien status for Afghan SIV holders as was already allowed for Iraqi SIV holders. The staff note previously entered in this item is removed.

**Implementation of
Revised Policy**

Because the extended acceptable alien status period was only entered in PEM and BEM 225A as a staff note, many local offices may be unaware of this change. Any benefits that were denied or terminated early for this group of Afghan aliens, must be restored. Bridges will determine benefits correctly for time periods after conversion if the individual's alien status information is entered in data collection.

Individuals whose benefits were terminated early may require a reinstatement or issuance of supplemental benefits. When you request reinstatement in Bridges, remember to select the correct alien type, verification type, and date of entry/adjustment to this status before running eligibility. Bridges should restore benefits or produce a supplement. If you believe data collection has been completed correctly and Bridges is not producing the correct result, file a Remedy ticket explaining expected eligibility results.

Manual determinations are needed for benefit periods prior to conversion to Bridges. Local offices have the ability to authorize cash and FAP manual issuance for periods prior to Bridges conversion. If you experience difficulty with this, file a Remedy ticket.

Reason: Federal legislation.

BEM 225A

Links only items

BEM 214

BEM 225

BEM 630

**MANUAL
MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTIONS**

Changed Items (content changes) ...

BEM 225A